

September 27, 2001



Magalie Roman Salas  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
TW-A325  
445 Twelfth St., SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Ex parte* presentation in:  
MM Docket Nos. 01-235, MM 96-197; 92-264, 94-150, 92-51, 87-154;  
CS Docket Nos. 98-82, 96-85

Dear Ms. Salas:

On September 25, 2001, Gene Kimmelman of Consumers Union, Angela Campbell and Amy Wolverton of the Georgetown Institute for Public Representation, Jeff Chester of the Center for Digital Democracy, and Andrew Jay Schwartzman and Cheryl Leanza of Media Access Project met with Commissioner Copps and his advisors Susanna Zwerling and Jordan Goldstein to discuss the above-captioned dockets.

We explained that public interest organizations intend to participate vigorously in the ownership proceedings currently pending before the FCC. We also explained, however, that the Commission must fulfill its obligation to collect data to support its rules. We discussed possible Commission efforts to collect data, such as data on local broadcast stations' service to their communities and instances where several broadcasters utilize a single source for news. We explained that political candidates may not be able to reach voters in the manner they see fit if ownership consolidation continues to increase.

We encouraged the Commissioner to seek out academics to participate in FCC proceedings and to exploit as many avenues as possible to obtain data that regulated industries are unlikely to provide voluntarily.

Finally, we emphasized that relaxing structural ownership regulation may eventually lead to content regulation, which is disfavored by the media industries.

In accordance with Section 1.1206(b), 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, this letter is being filed electronically with your office today.

Sincerely,

Cheryl A. Leanza  
Deputy Director

cc: Susanna Zwerling

Jordan Goldstein